

LAURENS 55 SCHOOL DISTRICT

1029 West Main Street
Laurens, South Carolina 29360

GRADES PK-12

ENROLLMENT 5,760 Students

SUPERINTENDENT Edgar C. Taylor 864-984-3568

BOARD CHAIR Leni N. Patterson 864-682-2633

FISCAL AUTHORITY District Board/Legislative Delegation

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD

2003

ABSOLUTE RATING:

AVERAGE

Absolute Ratings of Districts with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
1	4	15	1	0

IMPROVEMENT RATING:

AVERAGE

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

N/A

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

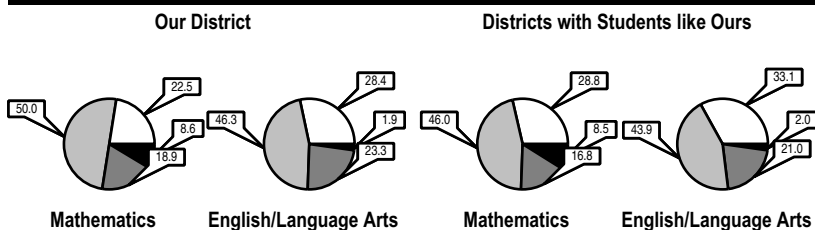
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WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM

WWW.SCEOC.ORG

PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	Average	Average	N/A
2002	Average	Below Average	N/A
2003	Average	Average	N/A
2004			

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS**Definition of Critical Terms**

	Advanced	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	Proficient	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	Basic	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	Below Basic	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

NOTE: Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	Our District			Districts with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Passed all 3 subtests	74.1	58.7	62.3	65.6	62.7	64.2
Passed 2 subtests	14.8	20.6	18.3	17.6	18.8	17.7
Passed 1 subtest	6.9	12.6	12.1	10.3	11.7	10.3
Passed no subtests	4.1	8.0	7.3	6.5	6.8	7.2

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

Percent of	Our District	Districts with Students Like Ours
Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*	11.8	12.9
Seniors who met the SAT requirement	11.8	13.2
Seniors who met the grade point average	54.4	52.1

*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP

	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced	State Objective
English/Language Arts								
All students	2,691	99.6	28.4	46.3	23.3	1.9	25.2	17.6
Gender								
Male	1,392	99.5	34.3	45.8	19.0	0.9	19.8	17.6
Female	1,299	99.8	21.9	47.0	28.0	3.1	31.1	17.6
Racial/Ethnic Group								
White	1,638	99.8	21.0	45.9	30.5	2.6	33.1	17.6
African-American	965	99.3	40.2	47.1	11.8	0.9	12.7	17.6
Asian/Pacific Islander		0.0						17.6
Hispanic	81	100.0	36.5	47.6	15.9		15.9	17.6
American Indian/Alaskan	2	100.0						17.6
Disability Status								
Not disabled	2,216	99.8	22.9	47.8	27.1	2.2	29.3	17.6
Disabled	475	98.7	55.8	39.2	4.5	0.5	5.0	17.6
Migrant Status								
Migrant		0.0						17.6
Non-migrant	2,691	99.6	28.3	46.4	23.3	1.9	25.3	17.6
English Proficiency								
Limited English proficient	37	100.0	60.0	36.7	3.3		3.3	17.6
Non-limited English proficient	2,654	99.6	27.8	46.5	23.7	2.0	25.7	17.6
Socio-Economic Status								
Subsidized meals	1,544	99.6	37.3	45.9	16.2	0.6	16.8	17.6
Full-pay meals	1,142	99.6	16.7	47.0	32.6	3.7	36.2	17.6

Mathematics								
All students	2,691	99.9	22.5	50.0	18.9	8.6	27.5	15.5
Gender								
Male	1,392	99.9	23.4	49.1	18.9	8.6	27.5	15.5
Female	1,299	99.9	21.4	51.0	19.0	8.7	27.7	15.5
Racial/Ethnic Group								
White	1,638	99.9	16.1	48.6	23.6	11.8	35.4	15.5
African-American	965	99.8	32.8	51.8	12.1	3.3	15.5	15.5
Asian/Pacific Islander		0.0						15.5
Hispanic	81	100.0	27.0	58.7	3.2	11.1	14.3	15.5
American Indian/Alaskan	2	100.0						15.5
Disability Status								
Not disabled	2,216	100.0	17.4	50.7	21.6	10.2	31.8	15.5
Disabled	475	99.4	47.3	46.1	5.4	1.2	6.6	15.5
Migrant Status								
Migrant		0.0						15.5
Non-migrant	2,691	99.9	22.4	50.0	18.9	8.7	27.6	15.5
English Proficiency								
Limited English proficient	37	100.0	50.0	50.0				15.5
Non-limited English proficient	2,654	99.9	21.9	50.1	19.2	8.8	28.0	15.5
Socio-Economic Status								
Subsidized meals	1,544	99.9	29.3	52.7	13.7	4.3	18.0	15.5
Full-pay meals	1,142	99.8	13.5	46.5	25.6	14.3	40.0	15.5

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample
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	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced
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Mathematics								
2002	Grade 3	458		41.6	44.4	11.1	2.9	14.0
	Grade 4	423		30.5	42.2	18.9	8.4	27.2
	Grade 5	442		27.3	52.2	14.3	6.2	20.6
	Grade 6	405		27.1	42.0	20.4	10.4	30.8
	Grade 7	495		38.6	33.5	16.2	11.7	27.9
	Grade 8	451		43.3	39.7	11.4	5.6	17.0
2003	Grade 3	437	99.8	19.2	50.5	21.4	9.0	30.3
	Grade 4	458	99.8	17.7	59.7	15.6	7.0	22.5
	Grade 5	425	99.8	24.6	52.0	18.4	5.0	23.4
	Grade 6	462	100.0	19.4	43.2	24.0	13.4	37.4
	Grade 7	398	100.0	21.0	46.9	19.1	13.0	32.1
	Grade 8	511	100.0	31.7	47.6	15.4	5.3	20.7

Terra Nova: a national, norm-referenced achievement test.

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Grade	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
3	49.2	50.0	51.5	50.0	58.2	50.0	54.8	50.0
6	57.6	50.0	49.0	50.0	51.2	50.0	51.4	50.0
9*	56.1	50.0	46.8	50.0	51.6	50.0	51.2	50.0

* Grade 9 estimates were based on a sample that may not be representative of the entire 9th grade population.

Test	Grade	Year	Percent of students scoring							
			Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	8	2002	1	3	23	30	44	43	32	25
Writing	4	2002	1	2	16	26	65	58	18	14
Mathematics	8	2000	2	5	15	22	37	38	45	34

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
All Students	264	96.2%	237	11.8%	312	65.4%
Gender						
Male	122	92.6%	102	9.8%	151	47.7%
Female	142	99.3%	135	13.3%	161	82.0%
Race or Ethnic Group						
African American	81	95.1%	95	2.1%	133	51.9%
Hispanic	4	I/S	2	I/S	3	I/S
White	179	96.6%	139	18.0%	175	75.4%
Other	N/A	N/A	1	I/S	1	I/S
Disability Status						
Non-speech disabilities	15	80.0%	21	0.0%	30	76.7%
Students without disabilities	249	97.2%	216	13.0%	0	64.2%
Migrant Status						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	264	96.2%	237	11.8%	0	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English proficient	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	3	I/S
Non-LEP	264	96.2%	237	11.8%	309	66.0%
Lunch Status						
Subsidized meals	70	94.3%	78	1.3%	109	53.2%
Full-pay meals	194	96.9%	159	17.0%	203	71.9%

* Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

2002-2003 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS

SAT	Verbal		Math		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	483	484	472	483	955	967
State	488	493	493	496	981	989
Nation	504	507	516	519	1020	1026

ACT	English		Math		Reading		Science		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	18.8	18.2	18.7	18.1	19.8	19.0	19.1	18.7	19.2	18.7
State	18.8	18.7	19.1	19.0	19.3	19.4	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Nation	20.2	20.3	20.6	20.6	21.1	21.2	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8

SCHOOLS IN "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS"

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n= 5,760)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retention rate	7.7%	Down from 9.3%	4.1%	4.0%
Attendance rate	95.3%	Up from 94.9%	95.3%	95.4%
Meeting grade 1 & 2 readiness standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eligible for gifted and talented	7.0%	Down from 8.4%	11.2%	10.7%
On academic plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
On academic probation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
With disabilities other than speech	12.1%	Up from 10.7%	11.2%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	5.5%	Down from 5.9%	5.5%	5.5%
Suspended or expelled	0.8%	Down from 1.9%	1.3%	1.6%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	9.6%	N/A	N/A	10.0%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	186	Down from 855	170	186
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	54	Down from 65	59	40

Teachers (n= 384)

Teachers with advanced degrees	42.2%	Down from 42.9%	43.9%	47.8%
Continuing contract teachers	82.3%	Up from 76.4%	82.8%	82.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	84.9%	Down from 85.3%	89.5%	89.5%
Teacher attendance rate	93.8%	Down from 95.8%	95.0%	95.1%
Average teacher salary	\$38,460	Down 0.9%	\$39,517	\$39,707
Prof. development days/teacher	12.3 days	Up from 11.5 days	11.0 days	11.3 days

District

Superintendent's years at district	9.0	Up from 8.0	2.5	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	21.2 to 1	Up from 15.4 to 1	19.7 to 1	20.6 to 1
Prime instructional time	87.9%	Down from 89.9%	89.1%	89.0%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,064	Up 8.3%	\$7,435	\$7,412
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	56.0%	Up from 54.6%	56.8%	56.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	99.0%	Up from 98.8%	97.6%	96.1%
Number of schools	11	No change	11	8
Number of magnet schools	0	No change	0	0
Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
Portable classrooms	12.4%	Up from 11.1%	1.7%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facility	30	N/A	22	26
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	11	N/A	10	8

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample
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SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE**Board Membership**

7 trustees elected to single-member seats

Fiscal Authority

District Board/Legislative Delegation

Average Number of Hours of Training Annually 0.0 per board member**Percent new trustees completing orientation** 100.0%**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Laurens County School District #55 is moving forward despite severe financial cutbacks from state resources. We have an excellent, well-trained staff that works hard every day for the welfare and success of our students. Our PACT scores are up in both English/Language Arts and Math. Seventy-five percent of our students met standard in ELA and sixty-five percent in math.

Many of our instructional programs are continuing to grow and flourish. Montessori will extend to the seventh grade this year. Our total number of Montessori children exceeds 700, and we have Montessori programs on six campuses in District 55. Our literacy programs continue to have a positive impact on the reading development in our schools. We have expanded the scope of responsibility for our literacy coaches to include "Thinking Maps" and "Write from the Beginning." Thinking Maps offers help in organizational skills, which are proving very helpful to our students. Write from the Beginning is a comprehensive program that helps students improve their writing skills.

Our building program is still going on. Laurens District 55 High School should have the addition of ten new classrooms by January of 2004. We continue to be very happy with the many building projects and reconfiguration of our schools that have taken place over the past few years.

I feel that Laurens County School District #55 continues to be a good place to live, work, and go to school.

Sincerely,

Edgar C. Taylor,
Superintendent

DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal